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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/733,036 | TUNG ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |

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| Elvis O. Price | 1621 | |
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to ____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. The drawings filed on ____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/11/03
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other ____.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants' method for substantially reducing the water concentration in a fluorination process is unobvious over the prior art of record. Although the closest prior art of record (Nappa US Pat. 5,091,168) teaches the removal of water from a fluorination process the prior art of record does not teach or suggest removing the water from a composition, which results from a fluorination process, containing a reactive organic compound, a fluorination agent and water. The closest prior art fluorination process involves the preparation of anhydrous inorganic compounds (i.e., niobium or tantalum pentafluoride) by removing water with a water reactive agent such as phosgene, thionyl chloride or sulfonyl chloride (carbonyl or thionyl compounds encompassed by formula I of the present claims). There is no reactive organic compound contained in the reaction mixture of the Nappa fluorination process. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the water reactive agents, as taught in the Nappa fluorination process, to substantially reduce the water concentration in a fluorination process, wherein, *inter alia*, a reactive organic compound is present. It would not have been apparent to one having ordinary skill in the art that water reactive agents, such as phosgene, thionyl chloride or sulfonyl chloride, would not react with any reactive organic compound(s) contained in the fluorination composition mixture (before or after fluorination) considering that reactive agents such as phosgene, thionyl chloride or sulfonyl chloride can potentially react with reactive organic compounds which may result

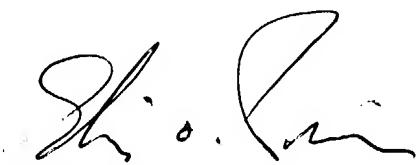
in not substantially reducing the water contained in the reaction mixture. All claims (1-21) are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elvis O. Price whose telephone number is 571 272-0644. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm; Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann R. Richter can be reached on 571 272-0646. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-1235.



Elvis O. Price

May 2, 2004